

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1728
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
GABORONE 4297
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA NAMIBIA:
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN AND NAMIBIAN REACTIONS TO SWAPO
ACCEPTANCE

1. SUMMARY: SAG OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN CAUTIOUS IN THEIR REACTION
TO SWAPO ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL. THE AG AND
POLITICAL LEADERS IN NAMIBIA HAVE WELCOMED THE
DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS, JULY 13, DEFENSE
MINISTER P.W. BOTHA ASK TO COMMENT ON THE ACCEPTANCE BY SWAPO
OF THE WESTERN PROPOSALS SAID "THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
HAS SO FAR NOT RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL INFORMATION. THE CONDITIONS
WHICH SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM SOUTH
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WEST AFRICAN WAS CLEARLY SPELLED OUT IN THE WESTERN PROPOSALS
WHICH WERE ACCPETED BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND
ALSO IN THE STATEMENT WHICH WAS ISSUED BY THE MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. PIK BOTHA, AT THE TIME OF THE ACCEPTANCE.
ONLY WHEN THERE IS VISIBLE PEACE AND ABSENCE OF VIOLENCE WHITHIN
THE PRESCRIBED PERIOD CAN THE REDUCTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN
TROOPS BEGIN TO TAKE PLACE."

3. BRAND FOURIE, SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REPORTEDLY COMMENTED "WE HAVE NOTHING AS YET FROM THE FIVE, THE ONLY OTHER THING I CAN SAY AT THIS STAGE IS THAT WHEN IT IS SAID THAT THE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED IT IS AS ASSUMED THIS IS ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS IN THEIR FINAL AND DEFINITIVE FORM AS WERE PRESENTED TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED AND ACCEPTED INTER ALIA BY SOUTH AFRICA IN APRIL."

4. JAPIE BASSON, CHIEF OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS WELCOMED THE "APPARENT SUCCESS" OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND SAID THAT THIS COULD SET A NEW COURSE OF EVENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA." BASSON WARNED THAT SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD HAVE TO ADJUST THEMSELVES TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SWAPO ACTUALLY WINNING ELECTIONS IN THE TERRITORY.

5. PRESS REPORTS FROM WINDHOEK QUOTE AG AS SAYING "THE WAY TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IS NOW WIDE OPEN. THE GREATEST SELF-CONTROL IS NOW NEEDED BY ALL WITHIN THE TERRITORY AND OUTSIDE IT. THERE MUST BE PURPOSEFUL REACTION FROM NOW AND NO MORE DELAY."

6. DIRK MUDGE, CHAIRMAN OF THE DTA, REPORTEDLY SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY PLEASED SWAPO HAD ACCEPTED THE PROPOSALS BUT HE WAS NOT SURPRISED GIVEN THE IMMENSE PRESSURE THAT

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HAD BEEN EXERTED ON SWAPO TO DO SO. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, MUDGE SAID, WHETHER SWAPO WOULD NOW INSIST THAT SEVEN MONTHS ELAPSE BEFORE AN ELECTION, AS SPECIFIED IN THE WESTERN PROPOSALS. "I DO NOT KNOW HOW THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO REACT TO THE SEVEN-MONTH STIPULATION" MUDGE SAID, "BUT WE IN THE DTA FEEL THAT AN ELECTION SHOULD BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." MUDGE EMPHASIZED THAT AN ELECTION WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON BEGINNING IN OCTOBER. IF THE ELECTION WAS NOT HELD BEFORE OCTOBER, HE SAID, "OUR FIRST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY AFTER THAT WILL BE IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR."

7. A. H. DU PLESSIS, LEADER OF THE NATIONAL PARTY'S ELECTION FRONT, SAID HE WAS SURPRISED SWAPO WAS PREPARED TO SUBMIT ITSELF TO AN ELECTORAL TEST. HE FEARED THERE MIGHT BE MORE DELAYING TACTICS.

8. THE LEADERS OF THE NAMIBIAN NATIONAL FRONT ARE PRESENTLY OVERSEAS AND THERE WAS NO COMMENT REPORTED TODAY FROM THE NNF. A SWAPO SPOKESMAN IN WINDHOEK REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESS THAT SWAPO SUPPORTERS WERE PLACED AT THE

ACCEPTANCE BECAUSE IT WAS ONE OF THEIR MAJOR DEMANDS THAT
THERE SHOULD BE A UNITED NATIONS SUPERVISED SETTLEMENT.
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